

July 24, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) led debate and voted in support of legislation yesterday to fund federal transportation, housing and economic development programs. The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act of 2010 (H.R. 3288), which passed the House yesterday afternoon, includes vital infrastructure and economic development projects, including over \$4.5 million for high-speed rail development in Upstate New York and \$200,000 for economic revitalization projects at the former Seneca Army Depot.

"This bill makes critical investments in Upstate New York," Arcuri said. "We are one step closer to the development of high-speed rail service, which will not only address our lack of transportation options but create good jobs and promote economic growth across the region. I'm proud of how far we have come on this issue, and will continue the fight to bring high-speed rail to Upstate."

Included in the bill is \$4,595,000 that will set the stage for the creation of a high-speed rail line between Buffalo and Albany with stops in Rochester, Syracuse, and Utica. The funds will be used to improve grade crossing safety and to facilitate high-speed rail along the Empire West Corridor. Work will include reconfiguration to enhance safety, including improvements to existing warning devices and the installation of channelization devices. These projects will enable improved speeds throughout the corridor, thereby reducing travel times and increasing on-time service. Of these funds, \$1 million are specifically for improvements at crossings in Oneida County. Arcuri jointly requested these projects with other members of the bipartisan Upstate Caucus, including Reps. Louise Slaughter, Christopher Lee, Dan Maffei, and Paul Tonko.

H.R. 3288 also contained funding requested by Arcuri for the Seneca County Industrial Development Agency, which owns and is responsible for redeveloping the former Seneca Army Depot site. The funds will be used to demolish two buildings that are currently hampering potential future development at the Depot airfield, adjacent to a parcel used by the State Police for training. This project will aid the redevelopment of the Depot and remove unsafe structures, creating 10 construction jobs during the demolition.

The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act was passed by the House of Representatives on Thursday evening. The legislation now proceeds to the Senate for consideration.

